

## The Souza Family

In March 2009, Jeff and Saprina with their three children moved to a rental property in Franklin to be closer the Saprina's parents, who live in Riverton. The family spends over 50% of their monthly income on housing which leaves little for other necessities.



The house that they rent has not been maintained properly which presents many problems for their family.

One of the primary problems is that there is no main heating system in the house and only two of the electric baseboard heaters work and it is impossible to heat the house with just two functional heaters.

Needless to say, the family has had to endure many cold nights in their home, so they started to use the wall mounted propane open flame heaters to help keep the house warm, but these heaters pose a real danger to their three children, especially for the active toddlers- Jeffrey, 5, Joclyne, 4. Last March, Joclyne lost her balance while dancing in the living room and fell into the flame heater sustaining very deep seven inch long burns on her left arm, will be permanently scarred. The youngest infant son Jayden, has to be closely monitored to ensure that he doesn't get close to this open flame or inhale the fumes of the heater.

No family should have to live in fear of the very place that they call home.

The house also has chronic plumbing problems. The drains clog and the pipes leak. Their water bill runs nearly \$200.00 a month. They are literally paying for water that they never even get to use.

The Souza family is excited about the prospect of becoming homeowners and having the opportunity to help build a home for themselves. Jeff is a professional painter and handyman so he looks forward to being able to invest in work for him own family this time.

**We hope that this past winter is the last winter that the Souzas will need to live with these problems as Habitat for Humanity will begin construction on their new 4 bedroom home in the Buffalo Hills subdivision in Franklin in May.**